Remarks

I. Status of the Subject Application

Claims 2-10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, and 25-29 are currently pending in the Subject Application. Claims 1, 11-15, 18, 19, 22, and 24 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to re-present these claims in continuing applications.

II. Interview

Applicant appreciated the Examiner's availability to interview the Subject Application on November 25, 2008. During this interview, Applicant's attorneys and the Examiner discussed the rejections and the references cited in the most recent Office Action, including whether motivation exists to combine the cited references and whether the cited references are in the same field of endeavor as the claimed invention, especially as they pertain to Independent Claims 1, 14, and 15. Dependent Claims 21 and 23 were also discussed. No agreement was reached during the interview on November 25, 2008.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

During a supplemental telephone interview on December 2, 2008, Examiner Joyner indicated to Applicant's undersigned attorney that Dependent Claims 21 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Applicant has complied with Examiner Joyner's suggestion and has rewritten Claims 21 and 23 in independent form. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Independent Claims 21 and 23, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable. No new matter has been added to the claims.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims presented in the Subject Application, either as amended or initially presented in this Amendment, are in condition for allowance. Applicant's present Amendment should not in any way be taken as acquiescence to any of the specific assertions, statements, etc., presented in the Office Action not explicitly addressed herein. Applicant reserves the right to specifically address all such assertions and statements in subsequent responses.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to properly respond to the Office Action and believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining concerns, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below so that such concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

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